Various other steps have been taken by the Government-to expedite disposal of cases, these include periodically monitoring the pendency position in courts, grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, timely filling up the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of disputes resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Royalty on ores

†754. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the royalty being provided for coal and iron ore, separately;

(b) since when this rate is applicable and the year of its last revision;

(c) the authority responsible for determining these rates and whether Government propose to increase them further in present perspective; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Rates of royalty of major minerals are specified in the Second Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Rates of royalty on coal produced in all States and Union Territories except the state of West Bengal are as under:

1. Group I Coals.	Rs. 250 per tonne.
2. Group II Coals.	Rs. 165 per tonne.
3. Group III Coals.	Rs. 115 per tonne.
4. Group IV Coals.	Rs. 85 per tonne.
5. Group V Coals.	Rs. 65 per tonne.
6. Group VI Coals.	Rs. 90 per tonne.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rates of royalty on coal produced in the state of West Bengal are as under:

1. Group I Coals.	Rs. 7 per tonne.
2. Group II Coals.	Rs. 6.50 per tonne.
3. Group III Coals.	Rs. 5.50 per tonne.
4. Group IV Coals.	Rs. 4.30 per tonne.
5. Group V Coals.	Rs. 2.50 per tonne.

Royalty rates on iron ore are as under:

Iron ore

(i) Lumps:

a)	with 65% Fe content or more	Rs. 27 per tonne.
b)	with 62% Fe content or more but less 65% Fe content	Rs. 16 per tonne, than
c)	with less than 62% Fe content	Rs. 11 per tonne.

(ii) **Fines:**

a)	with 65% Fe content or more	Rs. 19 per tonne.
b)	with 62% Fe content or more but less 65% Fe content	Rs. 11 per tonne, than
c)	with less than 62% Fe content	Rs. 8 per tonne.

Hi) Concentrates prepared by beneficiation and/or concentration of low grade ore containing 40% Fe or less. Rs. 4 per tonne,

(b) Royalty rates on coal and iron ore were last revised vide Gazette Notification dated 16.8.2002 and 14.10.2004 respectively and these rates are applicable from the date of their publication in the Gazette.

(c) and (d) The rates of royalty of iron ore and coal can be enhanced or reduced by the Central Government. As per proviso to Section 9(3) of the MMDR Act, the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. Therefore rates of royalty on iron ore can not be enhanced before'14.10.2007. The Ministry of Coal has constituted a Committee on 2.6.2005 to examine the issue of revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite.